

## What are the aims of Intergroup?

The aims of Intergroup are to aid the constituent groups in their common purpose of carrying the AA message to the still suffering alcoholic and, by using their combined strength and unity, to improve and maintain good relations with all organisations in the community.

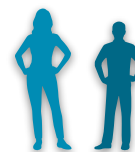
## What are Tradition 7 contributions to Intergroup used for?

Contributions to Intergroup are used to further our Primary Purpose of helping the still suffering alcoholic. AA's services such as the Telephone Helpline, AA Website and other services managed by York need to be paid for, and therefore all Groups are encouraged to make Tradition 7 contributions to Intergroup on a regular basis.

April 2024

# NEWSLETTER

## SOUTH EAST LONDON INTERGROUP (WEST)



### THE LONDON TELEPHONE SERVICE – AN INTERGROUP'S VITAL RESPONSIBILITY

Staying in the Mayflower Hotel in Akron Ohio in May of 1935, one alcoholic, Bill W needed to talk to another alcoholic and started making phone calls. From that founding moment of AA to the present time, picking up the phone has been the saving grace of countless still suffering alcoholics all around the world.

1947 saw the first AA meeting in Great Britain, and in the following year in August 1948, a telephone was installed in a member's office in the London Fruit Exchange, answered weekdays, with the number listed in the London telephone directory as the AA contact number. From this humble beginning, the present-day service grew.

In 1952, AA began to lease 11 Redcliffe Gardens in Chelsea for a Central Service Office, the forerunner of the General Service Office, and in 1955, the telephone helpline was transferred from the London Fruit Exchange to Redcliffe Gardens, taking calls for help initially between 10am and 6pm, Monday to Friday.

Following a number of relocations in the years that followed (including operating from Redcliffe Gardens again from 1965 until 1978), the London Telephone Service finally returned to Redcliffe Gardens in December 1986 where it remained until January 1999, at which time it moved into the Regional Service Office (London) and Redcliffe Gardens passed into AA history.

Responsibility for AA's telephone service begins with Intergroups, and the main purpose of the telephone service is to put the still suffering alcoholic in touch with an individual contact or AA group. Each Intergroup takes responsibility for its allocated telephone service slots on specific days of each month, SELIG(West) being responsible for the slots on the first and fifth Saturdays of each month (2 to 6pm) and the third Sunday of the month (10am to 2pm). An Intergroup will therefore appoint a Telephone Liaison Officer who is responsible for co-ordinating the working of the Intergroup's telephone service activities. In the absence of an Intergroup Telephone Liaison Officer, the Intergroup Chair becomes responsible for carrying out this service work. The Intergroup will also appoint a Responder and Twelfth Step list co-ordinator. This important role involves maintaining a list of local Responders and Twelfth Steppers. Responders are responsible for taking details given to them by the London Telephone Service of incoming enquiries as they come in, and where appropriate, pass details of the request for help on to a Twelfth Stepper who has been listed under local arrangements to carry out Twelfth Step work.

The London Telephone Service has come a long way from that first telephone helpline in the London Fruit Exchange. With the support of the groups, it survived all its early traumas, the several moves and all the changes it has gone through. It is the groups through their Tradition 7 contributions to Intergroup that make it possible for this vital AA service to continue, and the hand of AA to be there for the still suffering alcoholic who reaches out for help.

Should any member be interested in becoming a telephone service volunteer, please contact Bill G on [07707 254662](tel:07707254662) or email [bilgraham029@gmail.com](mailto:bilgraham029@gmail.com)

For any member interested in becoming a Responder or Twelfth Stepper, please contact Stef on [07879 443846](tel:07879443846) or email [scrispini@sky.com](mailto:scrispini@sky.com)

## **SERVICE POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

All service positions at Intergroup are vital to keep AA running and healthy. There follows a list of service commitments currently available at SELIG(West) that you, someone in your group or a sponsee would benefit from doing. The suggested sobriety time for all these service positions is two years, except for Regional Representative and also Employment Liaison Officer where three years sobriety is suggested:

### **Chair**

The Chair has the responsibility of convening and conducting Intergroup meetings, and for approving the agenda and minutes before they are published. The Chair is also responsible for co-ordinating the working of the Intergroup's Telephone Service activities in the absence of an Intergroup Telephone Liaison Officer.

### **Vice Chair**

The Vice Chair has the responsibility of conducting the Intergroup meeting in the absence of the Chair.

### **Public Information (PI)**

The Public Information Officer is responsible for ensuring that information about the AA message and programme of recovery is conveyed to outside organisations to the best possible advantage. The service commitment will thus involve working with any outside events or institutions in order to attract the still suffering alcoholic to A.A.

### **Armed Services Liaison Officer (ASLO)**

The role of the Intergroup Armed Services Liaison Officer is to establish local links with The Royal Navy, The Army and The Royal Air Force, and any other organisations connected with the Armed Services such as Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) and Veterans-UK.

### **Probation Liaison Officer**

The Probation Liaison Officer is responsible for establishing links with the Probation Services and to keep Intergroup informed on a regular basis.

### **Young People's Liaison Officer (YPLO)**

The YPLO will be someone who came into AA at the age of thirty or younger. The service commitment will involve establishing close working relations with other service disciplines, in particular the Public Information Officer to assist with presentations where the audience is likely to include a significant proportion of young people, such as talks to schools, universities and young offenders' institutions etc.

### **Share Liaison Officer**

The Share Liaison Officer provides the essential contacts between members, groups and the editorial teams, and will actively encourage the contribution of articles and letters, and the promotion of the magazines.

### **Regional Representative**

The Regional Representative is the link between the Intergroup and Region in a similar way that the GSR is the link between a group and Intergroup.

### **Employment Liaison Officer**

The Employment Liaison Officer has the responsibility of carrying AA's Message to employers within the Intergroup's area; employment specifically concerns any organisation employing or serving staff companies, trades unions and associations, government departments and/or related agencies.

Should you feel you could commit to any of these service positions, please contact SELIG (WEST) Chair Nigel M on 07910 141916 or email [nigel\\_intergroup@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nigel_intergroup@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Next Intergroup meeting**

SELIG(West) will be holding its next meeting at **Camberwell Green United Reformed Church, Love Walk, SE5 8AE on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (7.15pm for a 7.30pm start).**

Please note that any AA member is welcome to attend as a visitor to find out more about what goes on at Intergroup.

